

Listing of Claims

This Listing of Claims will replace all prior versions and Listings of Claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A computer-implemented method of annotating pages of an electronic document independently of the contents of the document, comprising the steps of:

(a) ~~(1)~~-displaying a page of the electronic document on a computer display device using a document browser that permits a user to move forward and backward among a plurality of document pages;

(b) ~~(2)~~-detecting a selection of selecting an annotation mode that permits the user to annotate the currently displayed document page;

(c) ~~(3)~~-receiving annotation stroke input from annotating parts of the currently displayed page by moving a user input device indicating that the user has moved the user input device for a continuous distance about a stroke location to indicate where on the currently displayed document page the annotations should appear; and

(d) ~~(4)~~-storing annotation stroke data based on the received annotation stroke input, said annotation stroke data comprising data corresponding to the stroke location and the movement of the user input device, wherein the annotation stroke data is stored in an annotation file associated with the user, the annotation file stored annotations made in step (3) separate from the electronic document.

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Currently Amended) The computer-implemented method of claim 1, wherein the stored annotation stroke data corresponds to step (3) comprises the step of using a translucent highlighting that does not completely obscure the annotated portions of the currently displayed document page.

4. (Currently Amended) The computer-implemented method of claim 3, further comprising displaying the translucent highlighting on the computer display device, wherein said

displaying comprising step (3) comprises the step of blending pixels from the currently displayed document with a translucent color to produce a translucent annotation.

5. (Currently Amended) The computer-implemented method of claim 1, wherein the stored annotation stroke data corresponds to step (3) comprises the step of using an erase highlighting that erases previously annotated areas of the currently displayed document page.

6. (Currently Amended) The computer-implemented method of claim 1, wherein said user input device step (3) comprises the step of using a stylus in with a tablet computer system.

7. (Cancelled)

8. (Currently Amended) The computer-implemented method of claim 1, further comprising the steps of:

(e) (5) updating the computer display device to display moving to a different document page of the currently displayed document;

(f) (6) retrieving previously stored annotation stroke data ~~annotations~~ associated with the different document page; and

(g) (7) displaying ~~the retrieved annotations~~ corresponding to the previously stored annotation stroke data on the computer display device superimposed over the different document page.

9. (Currently Amended) The computer-implemented method of claim 8, wherein step (f) (6) comprises the step of detecting a title change event in the document browser and, in response thereto, locating a second an annotation file corresponding to the different document page.

10. (Currently Amended) A system for annotating electronic documents independently of the content of the documents comprising:

a computer display device;

a computer programmed with a document browser that permits a user to display an electronic document on the computer display device and to move forward and backward among a plurality of document pages;

a computer input device that permits the user to indicate portions of a currently displayed document page; and

computer software that permits the user to annotate parts of the currently displayed document page according to indicated portions of the currently displayed document, wherein the computer software displays the annotated parts of the currently displayed document page on the computer display device and stores annotations made by the user separate from the currently displayed document page, wherein said annotations are stored as data in an annotation file associated with the user that annotated the document page.

11. (Cancelled)

12. (Original) The system of claim 10, wherein the computer software displays and stores translucent highlight annotations that do not completely obscure annotated portions of the currently displayed document page.

13. (Original) The system of claim 10, wherein the computer software displays and stores erased annotations that remove previously made annotations on the currently displayed document page.

14. (Original) The system of claim 10, wherein the computer display device comprises a flat panel display, and wherein the computer input device comprises a stylus.

15. (Original) The system of claim 10, wherein the computer software retrieves, upon detecting a title change event, previously stored annotations associated with a different document page and displays the previously stored annotations on the different document page.

16. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable storage medium comprising computer-executable instructions for performing steps comprising:

(a) ~~(1)~~ displaying an electronic document page on a computer display device and permitting a user to move forward and backward among a plurality of document pages;

(b) ~~(2)~~ detecting a selection of an annotation mode that permits the user to annotate the currently displayed document page;

(c) receiving annotation stroke input from ~~annotating parts of a currently displayed page in accordance with movement of a user input device to~~ indicating that the user has moved the user input device for a continuous distance about a stroke location ~~indicate where on the currently displayed document page the annotations should appear; and~~

(d) ~~(3)~~ storing annotation stroke data based on the received annotation stroke input, annotations made in step (2) said annotation stroke data comprising data corresponding to the stroke location and the movement of the user input device, wherein the annotation stroke data is stored in an annotation file associated with the user, the annotation file stored separate from the electronic document.

17. (Cancelled)

18. (Currently Amended) The computer-readable storage medium of claim 16, wherein the stored annotation stroke data corresponds to ~~computer-executable instructions for step (2) further comprise instructions for creating a translucent annotation that does not completely obscure annotated portions of the currently displayed document, wherein the translucent annotation is generated by blending pixels from the currently displayed document with a highlighting pixel color.~~

19. (Currently Amended) The computer-readable storage medium of claim 16, wherein the stored annotation stroke data corresponds to an erase highlighting ~~computer-executable instructions for step (2) further comprise instructions for erasing portions of previously created annotations.~~

20. (Currently Amended) The computer-readable storage medium of claim 16, wherein the computer-readable instructions further include steps for:

(e) ~~(4)~~—in response to detecting that the user has moved to a different ~~document~~ page of the currently displayed document, retrieving previously stored annotation stroke data ~~annotations~~ associated with the different ~~document~~ page; and

(f) ~~(5)~~—displaying annotations corresponding to the previously stored annotation stroke data ~~the annotations retrieved in step (4)~~ on the computer display device superimposed over different ~~document~~ page.

21. (Currently Amended) The computer-implemented method of claim 1, wherein the annotation stroke data is ~~annotations are stored in a data structure as strokes~~.

22. (Currently Amended) The computer-implemented method of claim 21, wherein the annotation stroke data comprises ~~each stroke includes a stroke width and coordinates~~ indicating a trajectory of the stroke.

23. (Currently Amended) The computer-implemented method of claim 1, wherein the annotation stroke data is ~~annotations are stored as a bitmap image~~.

24. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 10, further comprising an annotation mode selection menu.

25. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 10, wherein annotations are stored in a data structure as strokes.

26. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 10, wherein annotations are stored as a bitmap image.

27. (Currently Amended) The computer-readable storage medium of claim 16, wherein the annotation stroke data is ~~annotations are stored in a data structure as strokes~~.

28. (Currently Amended) The computer-readable storage medium of claim 16, wherein the annotation stroke data is ~~annotations~~ are stored as a bitmap image.

29. (Currently Amended) A computer-implemented method of annotating pages of an electronic document independently of the contents of the document, comprising the steps of:

(1) displaying a page of the electronic document on a computer display device using a document browser that permits a user to move forward and backward among a plurality of document pages;

(2) receiving a signal representing a selected annotation mode from an annotation selection menu;

(3) receiving a signal representing an annotation of the currently displayed page;

(4) determining an initial position of the annotation;

(5) determining a width and trajectory of the annotation;

(6) receiving a signal representing that the annotation is complete;

(7) storing the annotation as a stroke in a data structure in an annotation file associated with the user, the annotation file stored separate from the electronic document; and

(8) displaying the annotation in an ink layer that is superimposed over and blended with pixels on the document page.

30. (New) The computer-implemented method of claim 1, wherein said annotation file contains a user identifier associated with the user.

31. (New) The computer-implemented method of claim 1, wherein access permissions on the annotation file are set to allow the user access to the annotations while denying access to certain other users.

32. (New) The computer-implemented method of claim 4, wherein blending the pixels comprises execution of an alpha blending function.

33. (New) The computer-implemented method of claim 1, wherein the annotation stroke data corresponds to movement of a stylus across the display between a stylus down event and a stylus up event.